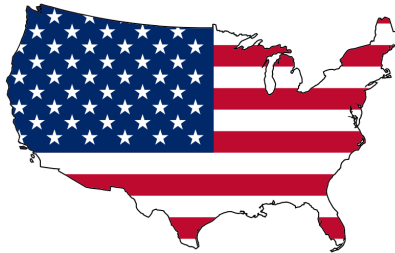


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 10
June 17 - June 30, 2009

Contents:

1. United States Seeks Active Engagement with European Partners

President Obama and other high-level U.S. officials will be participating in international meetings in June and July in Europe to engage European partners directly on the most urgent, overarching security and economic challenges, a senior State Department official says. ...

2. Michelle Obama Defines Own Role as First Lady

The role of first lady is arguably the most powerful and influential nonelected, nonappointed position in the White House. However, the first lady has no formal job description and the U.S. Constitution makes no mention of the role of the commander in chief's spouse. ...

3. Obama Envisions Sweeping Reform of Financial Regulation

The Obama administration unveils a plan for sweeping financial regulatory reform, a plan that, if enacted by Congress, would change the way financial institutions do business and the way government supervises and regulates that business. ...

4. State Department Official Encourages Youth Activism

U.S. Department of State official Derek Chollet encourages young professionals to join discussions on global affairs. "We're trying to position ourselves in the world to take on the big global challenges and to put the United States in the solutions business," Chollet says. ...

5. Giving to Charity Remains at High Level in United States

Despite the tough times, the annual Giving USA report says charitable giving is holding up — particularly donations to religious organizations, which are an important source of development aid and disaster relief in the developing world, and donations to colleges and universities. ...

6. Foster Youth Benefit from Mentoring

It doesn't take much to have a positive influence on a young person, says 2008 American Idol finalist and pop star David Archuleta, who is among U.S. celebrities raising awareness of at-risk youth issues, including foster care mentoring. ...

In case you missed it:

Spreading Music and Smiles

June 25, 2009



Simon Trpceski and Ilyich Rivas engaging with kids (LP)

World renowned Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski joined Venezuelan-American conductor Ilyich Rivas in a visit to 11 October Orphanage. The kids enjoyed hearing about how both musicians first became interested in classical music and learning that both were also big soccer fans. They also learned how orchestras function and saw demonstrations of how the violin and trombone are played. Ilyich will direct KulturOp's Youth Orchestra in a concert on June 29 that is being sponsored in part by the United States Embassy. He is one of the youngest conductors in the world and came to Macedonia on the invitation of Simon Trpceski.

◇ To see a short video sequence of this event (WMV/size 5.88 MB), please [click here](#).



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

Modern-day Slavery Requires Concerted International Effort

Op-ed by Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

June 20, 2009

“Viola, a young Albanian, was 13 when she started dating 21-year-old Dilin, who proposed to marry her. They moved to Italy where Dilin said he had cousins who could get him a job. Arriving in Italy, Viola's life changed forever. Dilin locked her in a hotel room and left her, never to be seen again. A group of men entered and began to beat Viola. Then, each raped her. The leader informed Viola that Dilin had sold her and that she had to obey him or she would be killed. For seven days Viola was beaten and repeatedly raped. Viola was sold a second time to someone who beat her head so badly she was unable to see for two days. She was told if she didn't work as a prostitute, her mother and sister in Albania would be raped and killed. Viola was forced to submit to prostitution until police raided the brothel in which she was held. She was deported to Albania.”...[full text](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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